

a piezoelectric element having a lower electrode, a piezoelectric layer and an upper electrode being provided in a region corresponding to the pressure generating chamber via a vibration plate,

wherein there are provided within a region facing the pressure generating chamber a piezoelectric active portion as a substantial drive portion of the piezoelectric element and a piezoelectric non-active portions having the piezoelectric layer continuous from the piezoelectric active portion but not being substantially driven, the piezoelectric non-active portions being provided on both end portions of the piezoelectric active portion in a longitudinal direction thereof,

an electrode wiring drawn out of the upper electrode is provided on one end portion in the longitudinal direction of the pressure generating chamber, and

there is provided a protection layer on the other end portion in the longitudinal direction of the pressure generating chamber for protecting the vibration plate being provided in a region facing an end portion of the pressure generating chamber and in region facing an end portion of the piezoelectric layer within the region facing the pressure generating chamber.

6. (Once Amended) The ink-jet recording head according to claim 1, wherein the protection layer is composed of the same material as the electrode wiring.

10. (Once Amended) The ink-jet recording head according to claim 1, wherein the protection layer is also provided in a region facing one end portion of the pressure generating chamber.

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11. (Once Amended) The ink-jet recording head according to claim 10, wherein the electrode wiring doubles as a protection layer.

04
19. (Once Amended) The ink-jet recording head according to claim 15, wherein at least the piezoelectric non-active portion on the side of the other end portion in the longitudinal direction of the pressure generating chamber is formed by removing the lower electrode.

Please add the following new claim:

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22. (New) The ink-jet recording head according to claim 1, wherein a width of the protection layer gradually decreases toward a tip portion, such that the tip portion forms a triangular shape.